

## ***MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS***

*(Version with Markings to Show Changes Made)*

1. (previously presented) A protective cover of operative dental instruments made from a thermoshrinkable material and having a form of an elongated elastic sleeve (1), with an elliptical cross-section before application and having an open end;

frontal and lateral surfaces of the elongated elastic sleeve disposed parallel to covered surfaces of a protected dental instrument (2), simultaneously maintaining a positive dimensional tolerance within a range of 1-20% in compliance with the dimensions of the covered surface of the protected dental instrument (2);

a first hinge axis passing through a first lateral side at the open end of the elongated elastic sleeve (1) and creating a first flat hinged end flap (4) at the elongated elastic sleeve (1) on a side of an inserting hole (3);

a second hinge axis passing through a second lateral side at the open end of the elongated elastic sleeve (1) and creating a second flat symmetrical hinged

end flap (4) at the elongated elastic sleeve (1) on a side of an inserting hole (3).

2. (cancelled) A protective covering for protecting operative dental instruments

comprising

an end section having more or less the shape of a semi-sphere having a first diameter and having an end circle of the semi-sphere;

a first tubular section having a first end adjoining the end section and having substantially the first diameter and having a second end;

a frustro-conical section having a first end having the first diameter and adjoining the second end of the first tubular section and having a second end exhibiting a second diameter;

a second tubular section having a first end adjoining the second end of the frustro-conical section and having substantially the second diameter and having a second end;

a first wing having a connecting edge attached to the second end of the second tubular section over an angle of not more than 180 degrees;

a second wing having a connecting edge attached to the second end of the second tubular section over an angle of not more than 180 degrees and wherein the first wing is disposed opposite to the second wing; and wherein recited elements are made of a thermoshrinkable material.

3. (previously presented) A protective covering for protecting operative dental instruments

comprising

a sheet of thermoshrinkable material including

an end sheet having more or less the shape of a semi-circle having a first diameter and having an end diameter;

a first rectangular sheet having a first edge adjoining the end diameter and having a second edge;

a trapezoidal sheet having a narrow top having a length equal to the second edge and adjoining the second edge of the first rectangular sheet and having a wider bottom;

a second rectangular sheet having a first edge adjoining the wider bottom of the trapezoidal sheet and having a second edge;

a first wing sheet having a connecting edge attached to the second edge of the second rectangular sheet;

an opposing sheet of thermoshrinkable material including

an opposing end sheet having more or less the shape of a semi-circle having the first diameter and having the opposing end diameter;

an opposing first rectangular sheet having an opposing first edge adjoining the opposing end diameter and having an opposing second edge;

an opposing trapezoidal sheet having an opposing narrow top having a length equal to the opposing second edge and adjoining the opposing second edge of the opposing first rectangular sheet and having an opposing wider bottom;

an opposing second rectangular sheet having an opposing first edge adjoining the opposing wider bottom of the opposing trapezoidal sheet and having an opposing second edge;

an opposing wing sheet having an opposing connecting edge attached to the opposing second short of the opposing second rectangular sheet;

and wherein the first sheet is disposed opposite to the opposite sheet and wherein free edges of the end sheet, of the first rectangular sheet, of the trapezoidal sheet, and of the second rectangular sheet are joined to respective and corresponding free edges of the opposing end sheet, of the opposing first

rectangular sheet, of the opposing trapezoidal sheet, and of the opposing second rectangular sheet.

4. (previously presented) The protective covering for protecting operative dental instruments according to claim 3 further comprising an axis defined by the wing sheet and the opposing wing sheet.

5. (previously presented) The protective covering for protecting operative dental instruments according to claim 3 wherein the wing sheet and the opposing wing sheet create the possibility after operation of easy removal of the protective covering from an instrument surface by wrapping a possibly infected surface into the interior of a sleeve.

6. (previously presented) A method of covering a dental instrument with a protective covering comprising the following steps:  
employing a protective covering having  
a tubular section with a closed end and an open end;

a first wing part attached to the open end of the tubular section;  
a second wing part attached to the open end of the tubular section and  
disposed opposite to the first wing part;  
placing a dental instrument into the protective covering;  
pulling the wing parts backward toward the closed end; and  
removing the dental instrument from the protective covering.

7. (previously presented) The method of covering a dental instrument  
according to claim 6 further comprising:  
shrinking the protective covering onto the dental instrument.

8. (previously presented) The method of covering a dental instrument  
according to claim 6 further comprising:  
applying heat to the protective covering;  
shrinking the protective covering onto the dental instrument.

9. (previously presented) The method of covering a dental instrument  
according to claim 6 further comprising:

rolling the protective covering with the wings backward such that the outer surface of the protective covering becomes the inside of the rolled-in dental covering for easy and sanitary disposal of the protective covering.

10. (previously presented) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 8 further comprising  
using a flame cone of a gas lamp as a source of heat to be applied to the protective covering;  
performing a screwing motion of the dental instrument together with the protective covering over the flame cone.

11. (previously presented) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 10 further comprising  
performing the screwing motion at a distance of more than 5 centimeter above the flame cone;  
simultaneously moving the dental instrument together with the protective covering along a plane passing through an axis of the protective covering.

12. (previously presented) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 10 further comprising cutting a hole into the protective covering; putting a dental bur through the hole into the dental instrument placed into the protective covering.

13. (previously presented) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 10 further comprising employing a high-speed drill with a service pipe for water as a dental instrument; cutting out an additional hole for the service pipe of water.

14. (previously presented) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 12 further comprising finishing the work with the patient; taking off the protective covering ; wrapping the first wing part and the second wing part; moving the first wing part and the second wing part forward; and



hiding an infected surface of the first wing part or of the second wing part inwardly.

15. (previously presented) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 14 further comprising  
placing the protective covering into a disinfectant;  
placing the protective covering to be burned.

16. (previously presented) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 14 further comprising  
sterilizing the dental instrument after the protective covering has been taken off.

17. (previously presented) A method of covering a dental instrument with a protective covering comprising  
the following steps:  
employing a protective covering having  
a first tubular section with a closed end and an open end;

an expanding tubular section having a first narrow end adjoining the open end of the first tubular section and having a second wider end;

a second tubular section having a first end adjoining the wider end and having a second end;

a first wing part attached to the second end of the second tubular section;

a second wing part attached to the second end of the second tubular section and disposed opposite to the first wing part;

placing a dental instrument into the protective covering;

pulling the wing parts backward toward the closed end; and

removing the dental instrument from the protective covering;

applying heat to the protective covering;

using a flame cone of a gas lamp as a source of heat to be applied to the protective covering;

performing a screwing motion of the dental instrument together with the protective covering over the flame cone.

performing the screwing motion at a distance of more than about 5 centimeter above the flame cone;

simultaneously moving the dental instrument together with the protective covering along a plane passing through an axis of the protective covering;

shrinking the protective covering onto the dental instrument;

cutting a hole into the protective covering;

putting a dental bur through the hole into the dental instrument placed into the protective covering.

employing a high-speed drill with a service pipe for water as a dental instrument;

cutting out an additional hole into the protective covering for the service pipe of water;

finishing working with the patient;

taking off the protective covering ;

wrapping the first wing part and the second wing part;

moving the first wing part and the second wing part forward;

hiding an infected surface of the first wing part or of the second wing part inwardly;

rolling the protective covering with the wing parts backward such that the outer surface of the protective covering becomes the inside of the rolled-in dental covering for easy and sanitary disposal of the protective covering;

placing the protective covering into a disinfectant;

placing the protective covering to be burned;

sterilizing the dental instrument after the protective covering has been taken off.

18. (currently amended) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 6 further comprising:

applying heat to the protective covering;

using a flame cone of a gas lamp as a source of heat to be applied to the protective covering;

performing a screwing motion of the dental instrument together with the protective covering over the flame cone;

cutting a hole in the dental covering;

performing the screwing motion at a distance of more than about 5 centimeter above the flame cone;

simultaneously moving the dental instrument together with the protective covering along a plane passing through an axis of the protective covering;

shrinking the protective covering onto the dental instrument;

cutting a dental bur in the dental instrument protected with the protective covering placed and shrunk on the dental instrument.

19. (previously presented) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 6 further comprising:

cutting a hole into the protective covering;

putting a dental bur through the hole into the dental instrument placed into the protective covering.

employing a high-speed drill with a service pipe for water as a dental instrument;

cutting out an additional hole into the protective covering for the service pipe of water;

finishing working with the patient;

taking off the protective covering ;

wrapping the first wing part and the second wing part;

moving the first wing part and the second wing part forward;

hiding an infected surface of the first wing part or of the second wing part inwardly;

rolling the protective covering with the wing parts backward such that the outer surface of the protective covering becomes the inside of the rolled-in dental covering for easy and sanitary disposal of the protective covering;

placing the protective covering into a disinfectant;

placing the protective covering to be burned;

sterilizing the dental instrument after the protective covering has been taken off.

20. (new) A method of covering a dental instrument with a protective covering comprising

the following steps:

employing a protective covering having

a first tubular section with a closed end and an open end;

an expanding tubular section having a first narrow end adjoining the open end of the first tubular section and having a second wider end;

a second tubular section having a first end adjoining the wider end and having a second end;

a first wing part attached to the second end of the second tubular section;

a second wing part attached to the second end of the second tubular section and disposed opposite to the first wing part;

placing a dental instrument into the protective covering;

pulling the wing parts backward toward the closed end; and

removing the dental instrument from the protective covering;

applying heat to the protective covering;

using a flame cone of a gas lamp as a source of heat to be applied to the protective covering;

performing a screwing motion of the dental instrument together with the protective covering over the flame cone.

performing the screwing motion at a distance of more than about 5 centimeter above the flame cone;

simultaneously moving the dental instrument together with the protective covering along a plane passing through an axis of the protective covering;

shrinking the protective covering onto the dental instrument;

cutting a hole into the protective covering;

putting a dental bur through the hole into the dental instrument placed into the protective covering.

employing a high-speed drill with a service pipe for water as a dental instrument;

cutting out an additional hole into the protective covering for the service pipe of water;

finishing working with the patient;

taking off the protective covering by pulling the wing parts backward to the closed end;

wrapping the first wing part and the second wing part;

moving the first wing part and the second wing part forward;

hiding an infected surface of the first wing part or of the second wing part inwardly;

rolling the protective covering with the wing parts backward such that the outer surface of the protective covering becomes the inside of the rolled-in dental covering for easy and sanitary disposal of the protective covering;

placing the protective covering into a disinfectant;

placing the protective covering to be burned;

sterilizing the dental instrument after the protective covering has been taken off.

21. (new) A method of covering a dental instrument with a protective covering comprising

the following steps:

employing a protective covering made of thermo-retractable foil having

a first tubular section with a closed end and an open end;



an expanding tubular section having a first narrow end adjoining the open end of the first tubular section and having a second wider end;

a second tubular section having a first end adjoining the wider end and having a second end;

a first wing part attached to the second end of the second tubular section;

a second wing part attached to the second end of the second tubular section and disposed opposite to the first wing part,

wherein the protective covering is having before application a form of an elongated elastic sleeve with an elliptical cross-section;

placing a dental instrument into the protective covering, wherein the protective covering maintains a positive dimensional tolerance within a range of 1-20% in compliance with the dimensions of the covered surface of the dental instrument;

applying heat to the protective covering;

using an electric reheater as a source of heat to be applied to the protective covering;

performing a screwing motion of the dental instrument together with the protective covering over the electric reheater;

performing the screwing motion at a distance of more than about 5 centimeter above the electric reheater;

simultaneously moving the dental instrument together with the protective covering along a plane passing through an axis of the protective covering;

shrinking the protective covering made of thermo-retractable foil onto the dental instrument to the size of the dental instrument over the electric reheater;

cutting a hole into the protective covering;

putting a dental bur through the hole into the dental instrument placed into the protective covering.

employing a high-speed drill with a service pipe for water as a dental instrument;

cutting out an additional hole into the protective covering for the service pipe of water;

finishing working with the patient;

taking off the protective covering by pulling the wing parts backward to the closed end;

taking off the protective covering;

wrapping the first wing part and the second wing part;

moving the first wing part and the second wing part forward;  
hiding an infected surface of the first wing part or of the second wing part inwardly;  
rolling the protective covering with the wing parts backward such that the outer surface of the protective covering becomes the inside of the rolled-in dental covering for easy and sanitary disposal of the protective covering;  
placing the protective covering into a disinfectant;  
placing the protective covering to be burned;  
sterilizing the dental instrument after the protective covering has been taken off.